

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Monday, March 22, 2010

Bangs Community Center, room 101

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Rob Crowner, Harry Brooks, Carol Gray, Mary Streeter;
absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:40pm.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: Nonny moves, Mary seconds to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2010 and the committee approves by a vote of 5-0-1 (Harry abstaining as not present on March 8).

3. TMCC webpage: Peggy notes that four of the seven TMCC positions will be up for election at Annual Town Meeting this year, so it will be important to advertise this on the Town Meeting webpage. Other material still pending for the webpage includes information on calling a special election and mentoring for new Town Meeting members.

4. Information forum: Rob reports that it has been difficult to find a date for the budget forum convenient for all of the intended guests. Following discussion, the committee agrees to hold the forum on Tuesday, April 27. Harry will cancel the previously reserved dates at ACTV and secure the new date. The forum will begin at 7:30pm.

The committee discusses the proposed content of the forum, with some members advocating for a more general review of *budgeting* with at least one non-Amherst panelist and other members preferring a focus on understanding the *Amherst budget* featuring panelists from Amherst only. Rob will invite the Director of Finance, the Superintendent of Public Works, and a member of the Finance Committee and report to the committee as soon as all are confirmed.

5. Precinct meetings: Mary reports that precinct meetings are tentatively scheduled for each day from Sunday, April 25 through Thursday, April 29. She will attempt to reschedule the Tuesday meeting so as not to conflict with the forum.

6. Warrant review: Peggy distributes the list of articles that have been submitted to the "in-house" warrant planning committee, which will be meeting on Monday, March 29. The committee discusses the appropriate level of TMCC representation at that meeting, considering that only the chair was officially invited but also that such meetings seem to be basic to the committee responsibility for "organizing" Town Meeting. Ultimately, it is concluded that each of the other boards participating in the meeting will be sending one representative, and that TMCC will be there to collect information for planning the Warrant Review and preparing Town Meeting members for Town Meeting.

7. Bus tour: The committee discusses possible stops for the bus tour, including the school building in South Amherst, which is the subject of a capital budget article.

8. Materials for packets: The committee discusses how many pages it will submit for inclusion in the Town Meeting packets and what information should be covered, agreeing to prioritize time-sensitive material such as the bus tour, precinct meetings, and forum. Other potential topics include running for TMCC, ways to shorten Town Meeting, and arrangements for dependent care.

9. Scheduling of additional meetings: The committee will be meeting again on Thursday, March 25 and Monday, March 29.

10. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 6:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of March 8, 2010 meeting
3. draft list of articles for 2010 Annual Town Meeting, dated 3/16/10